

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. My personal experience tells me that without this provision, the quality of service would decline as costs increased.

Chairman Powell: Please do not allow the Bell companies to pressure you into knuckling under at the expense the consumer, competition and the small businesses of our country.